(c) the measures proposed for protection and ecostabilisation of those sanctuaries including financial allocation made during the Ninth Five Year Plan and current financial year;

(d) whether any project for eco-development has been proposed particularly in Assam under the Global Environmental Facility Grant;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasosn therefor; and

(g) the special scheme proposed to be implemented in the N.E.R. during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) There are 447 wildlife sanctuaries in the country out of which 11 sanctuaries are located in Assam. Although birds are found in all the sanctuaries of Assam, only Deepar Beel, Panidhing and Beelmukh are primarily bird sanctuaries in the said state. The list of rare animals and birds generally found in the sanctuaries of Assam is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Out of these 11 sanctuaries, only Dibru-Salkhowa sanctuary, is threatened by erosion and floods.

(c) For protection and eco-stabilisation of these sanctuaries, assistance is provided by this Ministry under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries". The allocations for IX Plan schemes are yet to be finalised. However, during the current financial year a provision for Rs. 12.00 crores has been made under the aforesaid scheme for the whole country.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Only 7 sites are covered by this scheme presently, which have been selected as representative of major biogeographic zones of India.

(g) During the IX Plan it has been proposed to revive the three old schemes i.e. Conservation of Rhinos in Assam, Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Education and Interpretation. All these will benefit the North-Eastern Region also.

Statement

S.No.	Sanctuaries		Rare Animals and Birds
1	2		3
1.	Barnadi	-	Pigmy hog, Hispid hare
2.	Garampani	-	Hoolock gibbon
3.	Laokhowa	-	Stray Rhinoceros
4.	Dipar Beel	-	Large whistling teal
5.	Dibru Saikhowa	-	White-winged wood duck
6.	Pabitora	-	Rhino
7.	Rajiv Gandhi (Orang)	-	Rhino, Elephant, Tiger
8.	Burachapori	-	
9.	Chakrasila	-	Golden Langur, Tiger
10.	Panidihing	-	White-eyed and Red crested pochard
11.	Beelmukh	-	Large Whistling teal, pochards
	National Parks		
1.	Kaziranga	-	Rhino, Elephant, Tiger, Swamp deer, Wild buffalo, Great Indian Hornbill, Assam bamboo partridge.
2.	Manas	-	Golden langur, Hispid hare Pigmy hog, Wild dog, Wild buffalo
3.	Nameri	-	White winged wood duck, Capped langur, Elephant.

[Translation]

Regional Disparities

*527. SHRI N. J. RATHWA :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken new initiative to ensure speedy development of the identified backward regions in the country with the additional provision of the resources to cover the backlog of development during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy worked-out and areas identified for coverage/removal of regional disparities/ removal of unemployment particularly amongst the Adivasis and allocation of funds during 1997-98 and also during the Ninth Plan;

(c) the details of areas identified for special programme to remove the regional disparities and key elements of the programmes, State-wise;

(d) whether the programme designed to remove regional disparities has not achieved the desired results; and

(e) if so, the precautions taken to avoid lacunae in implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) The planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for that purpose is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any areas as backward *per-se*. However, Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this regard through the mechanism of transfer of resources under the formula used for giving normal Central Assistance to States; Special Area Programmes such as Tribal Sub-plan, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme and Border Area Development Programme etc; and rural employment schemes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and Employment Assistance Scheme.

Removal of regional disparities in an essential objective of the planning process. However, the implementation of this objective is tempered by certain inherent historic and other characteristics of various regions such as differences in resource endowment, physiographic factors and geographical conditions.

Orphanages

* 528. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of orphanages receiving financial assistance form the Union Government in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the criteria fixed for giving financial assistance to them;

(c) the amount allocated for the orphanages during 1995 and 1996, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government of ensure proper utilization of the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Ministry of Welfare is not implementing any scheme of running orphanages. However, 51 children Homes have been receiving grants-in-aid under the 'Shishu Greha Scheme' run by NGOs for promoting in-country adoption.

(b) to (d) Statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Shishu Greh Scheme of Government of India from 1992-93, meant for promotion of in-country adoption of orphaned, abandoned, destitute and neglected children is implemented through NGOs. The financial assistance is provided to voluntary agencies for maintenance of children of the age group of 0-6 years for their placement with Indian families through adoption, as per provisions of the scheme.

Financial assistance to meet the recurring and non-recurring expenditure to the extent of 90% of the total expenditure is provided to voluntary organisation/NGOs as per provisions of the scheme.

As the scheme is implemented through NGOs funds are not allocated State-wise under the scheme, but release of funds depends on receipt of applications in this regard as per provisions of the scheme. The grant is sanctioned to Voluntary Organisations directly. Annual allocation for the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under :

Year	Amount
1994-95	Rs. 55 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 100 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 100 lakhs

In order to monitor the progress of implementation, performance and proper utilisation of grants, the following steps are taken by the Ministry :

(i) Half yearly progress reports from voluntary agencies/Shishu Grehs;

(ii) Inspection by State Government officers and their annual recommendations without which 2nd instalment is not released; and

(iii) Annual Audited Statement of Accounts and utilisation certificate of funds provided by the voluntary agencies before further release of funds.

[English]

Death of Tribals

* 529. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes) who died due to poverty during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government of India have taken any steps for stopping proverty deaths of Adivasis all over the country; and